



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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January 18, 2006

TO: IAC Members and Designees
FROM: Laura E. Johnson, Director *LEJ*
PREPARED BY: Neil Aaland, Assistant Director *NA*
SUBJECT: Grays Harbor County ORV Park Funding
Notebook Item #18

SUMMARY

Grays Harbor County (County) has fulfilled the first two stages of a three-stage plan to reopen and operate the off-road-vehicle (ORV) sports park formerly operated by Thurston County, now named Straddleline ORV Park. The County worked with volunteers and user groups to offer weekend events during the month of October 2005. This was needed to preserve the special use permit required by Thurston County to ensure continued park operation. Grays Harbor County will be posting a draft business plan (including exit strategy) to guide park operations, on its website on January 18, with final County adoption anticipated on January 30, 2006. IAC staff will provide a recommendation on February 2-3 regarding IAC Board approval of the business plan. IAC Board approval of the plan would enable IAC's Director to release up to \$350,000 in funds for park operations over the next two years.

BACKGROUND

In September 2005, the IAC board adopted Resolution #2005-23, which authorized the Board of County Commissioners for Grays Harbor County to assume ownership and operation of the off-road vehicle sports park facility previously operated by Thurston County, pursuant to Section 304(3) of the 2005-07 operating budget [ESSB 6090, now Ch. 518, Laws of 2005]. The Resolution also approved a one-time non-competitive grant of up to \$424,000 in a three-tier funding strategy:

- 1) up to \$59,000 for initial operating costs to satisfy legal nonconforming use permit requirements,
- 2) up to \$15,000 for completion of a professional facility condition survey, business plan, and exit strategy, and



- 3) up to \$350,000 for development and maintenance of the facility for two years once IAC approves the proposed business plan and exit strategy.

PROJECT STATUS

Since September, the County has operated the park as required to preserve the special use permit. In addition, it has worked with the Grays Harbor Council of Governments (GHCOG) to prepare a draft business plan to guide park operations. This plan includes an exit strategy, to guide the process should the County find itself in a position to no longer operate the park at some point in the future. As soon as the plan is available, IAC staff will simultaneously review it and seek review by the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Account (NOVA) advisory committee.

The County had planned to make the draft plan available sooner, however, insurance quotes were slow in coming, and the plan really could not be completed without solid figures. The County hopes to adopt a final plan at its January 30, 2006 Board of County Commissioners meeting. This will represent completion of the second stage required by the September IAC Board Resolution. The draft plan should be available at the County's Website by the time you receive this memo, and may be viewed at: <http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/>. The final plan will be provided to IAC Board members for consideration at the February 2-3 meeting in Olympia. If approved by the IAC board, NOVA funds will be made available for park operations in keeping with stage three of IAC Resolution #2005-23.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

IAC staff believes the County will meet the intent of IAC Resolution #2005-23. By the time of the IAC Board meeting/, Grays Harbor should have completed the first two stages of the strategy to reopen the ORV Park. County representatives have worked with IAC staff to develop an exit strategy that should alleviate concerns about how to deal with change, should the County wish to transfer or close the ORV sports park in the future. Staff commends the County for its leadership in reopening the park to provide a unique recreation opportunity.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

A staff recommendation will be provided after thorough review of the draft business plan. At this point, we anticipate providing Resolution #2006-10 for your consideration at the February meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2006-10
ORV Sports Park Funding**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Grays Harbor County has preserved the nonconforming use permit to allow continued operation of the Straddleline ORV sports park, and has completed a business plan, including exit strategy, to guide operation of the ORV sports park in keeping with IAC Board Resolution #2005-23,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation approves the IAC Director enter into an agreement with the County for an amount up to \$350,000 for development, operation and maintenance of the facility for two years from this date.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: February 3, 2006